Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

517.72, Appendix A

State Implementation Program Delivery Process Overview Conduct WHIP Sign-up Convene State Technical Committee 1. Initiate State Implementation Plan 1. Participant Applies 2. Develop Partnerships 2. NRCS determines participant eligiblity 3. Develop Habitat Needs Assessment 4. Identify Conservation Assessment Requirements Conduct Site Evaluation 1. Determine land eligibility 2. Make habitat assessment and needs determination 3. Apply the ranking criteria to the site The USDA Local Work Group Conveness. Using the Locally-led Process, the Local Needs Assessment is developed. Participant notified of approval or denial of WHIP application. The State Conservationist, in consultation with the State Technical Committee: Designated Conservationist develops 1. Finalizes the State Implementation Plan Wildlife Habitat Development Plan and (WHDP) with the participant. 2. Incorporates Local Needs Assessments NRCS Designated Conservationist, the Conservation District, and the participant Submit the finalized State WHIP plan to approve the WHDP. the Regional Office for review and concurrence. Designated Conservationist and the participant(s) complete the WHIP cost-NRCS NHQ WHIP Program Manager reivews the State WHIP plans. Funds share agreement. are allocated to the States based on the plans. Begin implementation of the WHDP and cost-share agreement administration NHQ notifies Regional Conservationist of allocation. Funds are provided to the State Conservationist NRCS Designated Conservationist certifies that the practice(s) is completed according to standards and specifications. States provide technical and administrative training to the field offices. Participant provides NRCS with applicable documentation and requests reimbursement. State Conservationists develop and implement marketing, information, and Payment processed by NRCS. education programs to promote WHIP. Designated Conservationist conducts status reviews and wildlife habitat Approved practice list, cost-share method monitoring activities. and rates, and practices ifespans are established by the State Conservationist, in consultation with the State Technical Committee. NRCS conducts WHIP evaluation.